

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 1 July 1967

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DAILY BRIEF 1 JULY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky's acceptance of the vice-presidential slot on Thieu's ticket, while appearing to preserve the "unity of the military," will create a whole new set of problems for the Directorate.

Ky almost surely considers his acceptance of the vice-presidential slot a compromise rather than a surrender, and will insist on a strong voice in all important decisions. Hence, the tensions built up between Ky and Thieu over the last months may be rekindled as they try to agree on the nature of their campaign, the division of power between them, and (assuming they win) appointments to the new government.

Moreover, Ky claims he won agreement from his peers that he should control the armed forces. This hardly seems like the sort of authority that a president would give up to a vice president for very long.

The other generals may yet be hard pressed to keep the peace between their standard bearers in an election that has now taken on a civilian versus military coloration.

2. Aden

The odds are going down on the British effort to put together a working native government. Deep-seated tribal animosities and the bitterness engendered by the Arab-Israeli war are working against the British effort

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British civilians are already leaving the Colony.

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Israel's Foreign Minister Eban took a comparatively moderate stand on the matter of national boundaries

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Emphasizing that everything hinges on peace settlements with the Arabs, Eban said Israel wanted no territory in Sinai so long as the peninsula was demilitarized. He also said Tel Aviv would prefer demilitarization of the Syrian heights to any outright takeover of Syrian territory.

4. Soviet Union

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5. Greece

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Wednesday that the junta is threatening to turn to De Gaulle for military aid unless the US relaxes its policy on hardware deliveries. We suspect there is an element of blackmail in this threat. There is no doubt, however, that the military coup leaders are growing increasingly annoyed with the situation.

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Peking pursues its campaign of diplomatic obnoxiousness on several fronts.

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Burma's Ne Win is now being described by Radio Peking as a "fanatic fascist dictator." In fact, the general is being charged with personally organizing the anti-Chinese riots in Rangoon. (Things are quiet in Burma, although Red Guards continue to parade around the Burmese Embassy in Peking.)

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Perhaps the closest thing to a diplomatic success Peking can chalk up in recent weeks is the possibility that the Chinese will be allowed to build a rail-road through the African republic of Zambia.

7. Haiti

Duvalier shows no sign of easing his brutal campaign against suspected opponents.

The death penalty has been decreed for all military "deserters" and their relatives—a move clearly aimed at most of the 95 Haitians who have fled to asylum in various embassies. Rumors of coups are as prevalent as voodoo drums in this dark republic, but we feel that Papa Doc is not in any immediate trouble.

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